

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 (ISO) W

----- 102442

R 100500Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6031

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1225

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, BG, IN

SUBJECT: INDO-BANGLADESH MARITIME BOUNDARY: DEADLOCK CONTINUES

REF: DACCA 1121

1. BOTH MFA'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR SUB-CONTINENT, KAISER MORSHED, AND INDIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER J.N. DIXIT TELL US THAT THE MARCH 1-5 MEETINGS BETWEEN BENGALIEE FOREIGN SECRETARY FAKHRUDDIN AHMED AND HIS INDIAN COUNTERPART, KEWAL SINGH, FAILED TO MOVE MARITIME BOUNDARY ISSUE CLOSER TO SOLUTION.

2. ACCORDING TO MORSHED, MEETINGS CHARACTERIZED BY CANDOR AND, WITH LAWYERS ON BOTH SIDES RELEGATED TO BACKGROUND, MORE POLITICAL REALISM. AS RESULT, HE SAID, THE TWO FOREIGN SECRETARIES, OFTEN MEETING INFORMALLY, WERE ABLE TO NARROW DIFFERENCES. HOWEVER, THEY WERE UNABLE TO FIND A SOLUTION.

3. DIXIT'S INFORMATION FROM NEW DELHI SUGGESTS THAT BENGALLEES ARE ENDEAVORING PUT BEST LIGHT ON MOST RECENT EXCHANGE. HE SAYS THAT INDIANS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SETTLE ON EQUIDISTANT LINE (WHICH IS CONFIDENTIAL

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WEST OF MEDIAN LINE) BUT THAT BENGALLEES REJECTED THIS

OUT OF HAND. HE ADDED THAT BENGALLEES SAY THEY SEE NO REASON TO ABANDON ANY OF THE 6000 SQUARE MILES IN DISPUTE AND HAVE ADOPTED A KIND OF TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT ATTITUDE. THE BENGALLEES APPEAR TO PERCEIVE THE STAND SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT LAST WEEK'S MEETING FAILED TO END THE IMPASSE, MORSHED SAID IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT NEXT MOVES, "WELL, WE'RE STILL TALKING."

4. DIXIT SAYS THAT THE INDIANS HAVE SOUGHT TO IMPRESS UPON THE BENGALLEES THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THEY VIEW THE NEED FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT ON THE MARITIME BOUNDARY. HE SAYS THAT INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN INTERVENED AT ONE POINT IN THE MARCH 1-5 MEETING, TAKING THE BENGALLEE FOREIGN SECRETARY OFF FOR A LITTLE MAN-TO-MAN TALK ABOUT REALITY; FAKHRUDDIN AHMED CONFESSED HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTING ANY GIVE IN THE BENGALLEE POSITION. DIXIT SAYS THAT INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER SEN NOW PLANS TO SEE THE PRESIDENT AGAIN IN AN EFFORT TO CONVEY UNMISTAKABLY TO MUJIB THE EXTENT OF INDIAN FEELING, HOPING THIS WILL MAKE A COMPROMISE POSSIBLE. AS AN ASIDE, DIXIT SAID THAT WHILE THE HIGH COMMISSION IS READY TO DELIVER THE LONG-HERALDED LETTER TO ASHLAND, THEY WILL WAIT UNTIL SEN SEES MUJIB.
CHESLAW

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